

February 5, 1946

Dr. S. E. Luria
Carnegie Institute
Cold Springs Harbor
Long Island, New York

Dear Luria:

I saw Cleland yesterday and had a chance to talk over with him the various things that you and I discussed in New York. He was very glad to get the information that I gave him and also was extremely sympathetic with all your problems. I was careful to avoid giving him the impression that I was coming as an emissary from you to him. As we have talked a number of times previously about your problems here and he knows that I am very interested in holding you here, I am sure that he felt that my present discussion was prompted by the same motives. He also feels the danger implicitly in the separation of the Bacteriology Department from Botany and will, I think, not push the matter as fast or as hard as McClung would like to see it pushed. The matter has already come before Payne with whom I discussed the whole situation yesterday also, and Payne is strongly opposed to any separation at present. McClung has gotten himself into hot water with Payne and will find it difficult I know to get anywhere in opposition to Payne, so it seems to me unlikely that McClung will have his way in this matter and I should not be surprised if eventually the showdown would result in McClung's departure, though this is quite unofficial and purely my own impression of the situation. As to the question of your relative security and independence here Cleland is in favor of finding quarters for you in another place rather than in the Kirkwood attic. Particularly if funds can be raised to set up an extensive research outfit for you. He is fully aware of what this implies and is quite willing to recommend whatever is necessary in the way of equipment and space to set you up properly. I mentioned the possibility of trying to find space for you near our quarters in the hope that this might make it possible for us to share some of the kitchen apparatus and workers though I am not at all optimistic that Chemistry will give us any more space here. Whether they do or not however, Cleland is all for getting you a space and the equipment wherever it would be convenient to set up your laboratory. He is also going to protect you I am sure on the score of teaching load and is in entire agreement as to the desirability of raising your salary. We also discussed briefly the possibility of organizing a genetic department though he did not commit himself on this and actually it seems to me relatively unimportant if you were to get the isolation and independence from bacteriology that he proposes. From

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what I have said I think you ought to feel reasonably assured that Cleland will do everything he can to make your set-up here attractive and satisfactory. It would seem to me wise for you to communicate with him directly rather than through McClung so that he might have as accurate an idea as possible of your needs with respect to salary, space and equipment on the assumption that you will get the funds required to develop your research problem in the way that you would want. I am awfully glad that I had the chance to see you and Zella in New York and to act as intermediary between you and Cleland. I wish you would feel entirely free at any time to write me about any problems on this end that I might be able to help you work out. With very best wishes to both of you.

Yours truly,

T. M. Sonneborn

TMS/ef

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